

Testimony in Support of HB2031 – The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Thursday, March 09, 2017
9:30 AM Room 118-N, Capitol Building, Topeka, KS

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Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

As an organization that is totally committed to quality of care for all Kansans receiving hospice and palliative care, we add our voice to those in favor of House Bill 2031 to create the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council. We see every day the need for Kansans to be informed about and understand options in care. Our work is to assure that citizens' wishes in care are honored. It is important that palliative care, in order to be provided correctly, be understood by professional caregivers and citizens alike; and that there be appropriate services to support quality of life. This measure can also assist healthcare professionals by further promoting and demonstrating the benefits of team based care and constant attention being given to patient's involvement in achieving better outcomes.

The bill is inclusive of varied professional perspectives. In addition, we encourage the inclusion of a representative of the patient/family/caregiver perspective, and believe that there are individuals who could fill this role well and bring a perspective that is important. A hallmark of excellent palliative care is including patient/family in the planning process, and we believe this to be an important addition here as well.

The LIFE Project Foundation, doing business as the Association of Kansas Hospices and Palliative Care Organization, works every day in the provision of hospice and palliative care to Kansans. We look forward to being a part of this effort and to supporting quality in palliative care in Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to share this with you. And thank you for your work and consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted

Sandy Kuhlman
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